

Message Text

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12

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 EUR-25 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 SCS-03

SCA-01 DRC-01 /135 W

----- 043308

R 051018Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1929

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 0821

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EGEN CGEN SO US

SUBJ: EXPULSION OF CONOCO MANAGER

REF: (A) STATE 116287; (B) MOGADISCIO 0812

1. SUMMARY: SOMALI OFFICIALS CONTINUE EMPHASIZE THAT RAMSDELL
EXPULSION WAS DIRECTED AGAINST HIM PERSONALLY AND THAT THEY WANT
CONOCO TO CONTINUE OPERATIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. DCM CALLED IN BY HASSAN KAID MORNING JUNE 5 TO RECEIVE ORAL
BUT OFFICIAL RESPONSE TO EMBASSY'S NOTE OF JUNE 4. WHILE REITERAT-
ING MANY POINTS MADE IN PREVIOUS DAY'S MEETING (PARA 2 REF B),
HASSAN KAID DID NOT RETURN JUNE 4 NOTE, WAS MORE CONCILIATORY,
AND STRENGTHENED PREVIOUS ASSURANCES THAT OTHER CONOCO AMERICAN
EMPLOYEES WERE NOT AFFECTED BY RAMSDELL EXPULSION. HE APOLOGIZED
FOR INABILITY FONSEC OR DG TO SEE AMBASSADOR LAST WEEKEND OR AT
PRESENT, EXPLAINING THAT PRESSURES OF OAU MEETINGS MADE THIS
IMPOSSIBLE. HE SAID RAMSDELL AND TORCHIA INCIDENTS WERE "ISOLATED"
ONES INVOLVING PRIVATE U.S. CITIZENS WHICH FROM SOMALI STAND-
POINT IN NO WAY AFFECTED THE GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNT-
RIES; GSDR HAD NO REPEAT NO INTENTION THAT RAMSDELL EXPULSION

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AFFECT CONOCO'S OR ANY OTHER U.S. FIRM'S ACTIVITIES HERE.

HE SPECIFICALLY STATED THAT THERE WAS NO INTENTION TO EXPEL ANY OTHER CONOCO AMERICAN EMPLOYEE. HE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT EMBASSY AND DEPARTMENT WOULD NOT USE SUCH "HARSH" LANGUAGE IN NOTES REGARDING ANY FURTHER INCIDENTS OF THIS TYPE.

3. DCM REPLIED THAT IT WAS DIFFICULT FOR U.S. TO REGARD 24-HOUR EXPULSION ORDERS AGAINST TWO AMERICAN CITIZENS AS "ISOLATED" INCIDENTS. UNFORTUNATELY, THERE HAD BEEN OTHER SUCH EXPULSIONS AFFECTING AMERICAN OFFICIAL AND PRIVATE ACTIVITIES IN SOMALIA, E.G., VALLEJO (FBO PROJECT SUPERVISOR), STEIFF (AMELCO), BARTLETT EMBASSY C&R), AND HEWES (AMERICAN SCHOOL). CUMULATIVE EFFECT OF THESE EXPULSIONS WHICH ALL FELL UNDER "SECURITY" RUBRICK, DID HAVE AN EFFECT ON OUR OFFICIAL RELATIONS. DCM SAID AMBASSADOR APPRECIATED DG'S TELEPHONE CALL JUNE 4 AND RECOGNIZED DIFFICULTY IN SENIOR MOFA OFFICIALS FINDING TIME TO ARRANGE FORMAL APPOINTMENT WITH AMBASSADOR TO DISCUSS RAMSDELL CASE. HOWEVER, DCM SAID AMBASSADOR WOULD APPRECIATE MEETING WITH FONSEC TO DISCUSS THIS AND OTHER MATTERS WHEN OUA CONFERENCE PRESSURES DIMINISHED.

4. ADDOU TELEPHONED AMBASSADOR JUNE 5 TO STATE HE HAD PASSED U.S. CONCERNS RE RAMSDELL EXPULSION ON TO FONSEC AS REQUESTED (PARA 7, REF A) AND THAT FONSEC HAD ASKED THAT FOLLOWING BE CONVEYED TO AMBASSADOR AND BY HIM TO WASHINGTON. ACTION AGAINST RAMSDELL SHOULD NOT REPEAT NOT BE INTERPRETED AS INDICATING CHANGE IN POSITIVE GSDR ATTITUDE TOWARD CONOCO OR U.S. GSDR WELCOMES CONOCO OPERATIONS AND LOOKS FORWARD TO INCREASE IN SCOPE OF THESE OPERATIONS. GSDR LOOKS FORWARD TO CONTINUING IMPROVEMENT IN U.S.-SOMALI RELATIONS. ACTION AGAINST RAMSDELL WAS STRICTLY PERSONAL BECAUSE OF HIS "INCORRECT BEHAVIOR" TOWARDS SOMALI EMPLOYEES OF CONOCO. FONSEC WILL INFORM AMBASSADOR PERSONALLY AT LATER DATE OF DETAILS OF RAMSDELL'S "WRONG-DOING", BUT HE WISHED THIS INITIAL EXPLANATION TO BE CONVEYED TO USG.

5. AMBASSADOR EXPRESSED U.S. FEELINGS ABOUT TORCHIA AND RAMSDELL EXPULSION ORDERS TO HIGHER EDUCATION SECRETARY MOHAMED ADEN JUNE 5. ADEN WAS FAMILIAR WITH BOTH CASES. ADEN CAME CLOSE TO APOLOGISING FOR TORCHIA CASE BY SAYING THIS WAS "FIRST TIME SUCH A LARGE CONFERENCE WAS BEING HELD IN MOGADISCIO" AND THAT HE WAS HOPEFUL THAT SUCH INCIDENT WOULD NOT HAPPEN IN FUTURE. ADEN REITERATED THAT ACTION AGAINST RAMSDELL WAS "PERSONAL". HE SAID HE PERS-CONFIDENTIAL

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ONALLY FELT ACTION AGAINST RAMSDELL WAS TOO "BRUTAL" AND HAD OPPOSED IT. AMBASSADOR SAID WE DEPLORED RAMSDELL EXPULSION. DEGREE OF CONCERN OF EMBASSY AND WASHINGTON HAD BEEN HEIGHTENED BY LACK OF TIMELY EXPLANATION FROM RESPONSIBLE SOURCES ABOUT MOTIVATION AND SCOPE OF GSDR ACTION. IT WAS VERY IMPORTANT TO GET SUCH EXPLANATIONS, AND INDEED IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE FOR EMBASSY TO BE INFORMED WHEN GSDR FELT SUCH A PROBLEM DEVELOPING TO SEE IF MATTER COULD BE WORKED OUT BEFORE EXPULSION STAGE REACHED. ADEN

AGREED ON BOTH POINTS AND SAID HE WOULD ATTEMPT TO ENSURE THAT THIS WAS DONE.

6. ONE POINT WHICH NOT COVERED IN REF B WAS HITTLE'S QUESTION AS TO ADVISABILITY OF SENIOR CONOCO OFFICIAL PAYING EARLY VISIT MOGADISCIO TO HOLD DISCUSSIONS WITH GSDR REGARDING RAMSDELL'S EXPULSION AND CONOCO'S FUTURE OPERATIONS HERE. IMMEDIATE CRISIS APPEARS TO HAVE PAST. GSDR HAS ADOPTED A POSITIVE ATTITUDE REGARDING CONOCO OPERATIONS HERE, INCLUDING UNDERTAKING THAT OTHER CONOCO AMERICANS ARE NOT AFFECTED. WE DO NOT BELIEVE IT PRACTICAL OR DESIRABLE FOR CONOCO OFFICIAL ARRIVE UNTIL SEVERAL DAYS AFTER OAU SUMMIT, SAY JUNE 18. DECISION REGARDING DESIRABILITY OF VISIT AT THAT TIME PRESUMABLY WOULD BE AFFECTED BY SUCCESS OF OSTER'S NEGOTIATIONS WITH LABOR DEPARTMENT AND NSS OVER LABOR PROBLEMS.

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